



# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, September 30, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

## **Emerald Ash Borer Status**

### **Maryland:**

The Maryland Department of Agriculture started their 1/2 mile ash eradication buffer walk-through last week. Significantly, only two small ash trees had not been detected in the initial cut. Another tree had been cut but not pulled out to the burn pile. Several areas have been marked that contain seedlings that will be monitored for the next two years. Once this activity is complete, the trees flagged and annotated via GPS will be cut, stripped, and examined for signs of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) activity.

### **Indiana:**

A collection of 3 larvae from a woodlot in Van Buren Township in LaGrange County, Indiana, was confirmed by USDA Identifier Zablotny on September 22, 2004. This adds another township to the infested areas in Indiana.

### **Michigan:**

Approximately 10,000 detection or "trap" trees were created in nearly every township at varying densities in both Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas to help serve as an early warning system for potential EAB infestations outside of the core area of Southeast Michigan. The detection trees were established to attract and capture adult beetles present in a specific area. The project was based on recommendations from the EAB National Science Advisory Panel and implemented by the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources in cooperation with local conservation district foresters.

Last week EAB program crews began returning to all trap tree sites across the Great Lakes State to remove the trees. As an additional precaution, all detection trees will be cut down and have sections of their bark peeled

to be further inspected for signs of infestation, such as beetle larvae. It is possible that additional positive trees may be found through this process. The trees will then be chipped and properly disposed of in an approved manner. This activity is expected to be completed by mid-November.

On October 5 and 6, in Romulus, MI, U.S. and Canadian scientists and EAB program managers will meet to discuss the results of field and laboratory studies conducted this summer. Additional information on biology and behavior will be useful in improving survey, control, and regulatory methods and activities. On October 7, USDA-APHIS program managers, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Department of Natural Resources, and MDA will discuss the process for addressing EAB spot infestations on National Forest System Lands in Michigan and other states impacted by EAB. Topics will include environmental documentation and related issues, drafting of a possible MOU between APHIS and USFS for this purpose, addressing spot infestations, conducting surveys, possible spot treatments, compliance issues, and general EAB program management.

**Source: Deborah McPartlan**

## **Sudden Oak Death Status**

On September 26, Dr. Dunkle presented a draft strategic plan and proposed federal order to state agriculture commissioners at the annual National Association of State Departments of Agriculture meeting in St. Paul, MN. When finalized, the plan and order will address concerns about the PPQ *Phytophthora ramorum* emergency response that have been expressed by several states and industry.

As of September 29, 2004, the total number of confirmed positive sites from the trace forward, national, and other survey finds is 160 in 21 States. The total includes three residential finds; two in Georgia and one in South Carolina and one environs find in New York. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR(1), AZ (1), CA(53), CO(1), FL(6), GA(18), LA(5), MD(2), NC(9), NJ(1), NM(1), NY(1), OK(1), OR(13), PA(indoor), SC(3), TN(2), TX(11), VA(2) and WA (25).



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APHIS - PPQ *P. ramorum* National Survey activities are complete in 14 Western Region States (AK, AR, AZ, CA, IA, ID, LA, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD, MT, and WY) and 13 Eastern Region (CT, FL, KY, ME, MI, MN, MS, NC, NJ, OH, PA, PR, WI). The southern states that suspended their national survey activities until weather conditions were more conducive to *P. ramorum* symptom expression are restarting their surveys. As of September 23, 2004, participating States through out the nation have surveyed 2,215 sites and have collected 39,878 samples; 15 national survey sites are confirmed positive.

**Source: Jim Writer**

## Asian Longhorned Beetle Status

### New Jersey - Carteret/Woodbridge Twp:

Personnel continued delimiting the infestation this week. No additional infested trees were detected. 10,725 trees have been surveyed to date with 403 infested trees detected. 48 personnel from various agencies are working the program. 15 are local employees from USDA PPQ, New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA), and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. 28 are temporary employees from USFS, FGIS, and USDA APHIS PPQ. Additional U.S. Forest Service (USFS) climbers are scheduled to arrive next week which will bring our total USFS climbers to 24. Additional personnel to support ground survey and regulatory work are also arriving next week. The lease for the office space has not been secured due to unresolved issues between the property owner and APHIS, Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services (MRPBS). 3 new compliance agreements were signed this week for a total of 32 companies under compliance. The regulatory officers began contacting construction code officials of the towns within the quarantine in order to prevent trees removed due to construction projects from moving out of the quarantine area without proper processing and disposal. Visitors this week included 8 New York Department of Agriculture and Market inspectors. Visitors from the New Jersey Governor's office cancelled their visit this week due to bad weather. A new date for their visit has not been scheduled.

### Illinois:

The Illinois Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) Project hosted a meeting with the ERIS (Emergency Response Information System) contractor (REI) and project personnel from the New York and New Jersey projects. We are in the process of fine tuning the functionality of the system and developing standard business practices to maintain consistency in functionality across all project areas. ALB program personnel are currently piloting the survey, treatment, regulatory, environmental monitoring, and call log handbooks of the system. The quality assurance handbook will be functional for pilot testing in early November. The target date for field deployment of the full system is March 2005.

Mike Stefan and Christine Markham met with the Project Manager of the Volunteer Survey contract and a Volunteer Surveyor to observe the Volunteer Survey Program in action.

### Public Outreach:

On Sunday September 26, 2004, Joseph Gittleman, New York ALB Project Director, USDA, APHIS, Barry Emens, New Jersey ALB Project Director, USDA, APHIS, and Carl Schulze, NJDA Director Plant Industry were guest speakers on the Ralph Snodsmith "Garden Hotline" radio show. A two hour special was devoted to the NY and NJ ALB eradication program. It was a great success. All aspects of the eradication efforts were addressed - survey, tree removal, chemical treatment, regulatory, and tree replacement. The need for public support for a successful eradication program was emphasized. Throughout the two hour long program, calls from the listening audience were continuous.

A front page article on the Carteret/Woodbridge infestation was published in the Sunday Home News Tribune Middlesex County paper. Channel 35, a local cable station in Woodbridge NJ ran several segments on ALB this week.

### Contracting:

Fernando Piza, ALB Administrative Officer, and MRPBS Contracting Unit met this week to discuss and resolve issues on numerous ALB contracts that are still



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pending action. Final payment on many of the 2004 treatment contracts have not been made due to pending contract modifications and unresolved discrepancies between the contractor and USDA.

**Source: Christine Markham**

## Cotton Pest Programs Status

### **Boll Weevil Eradication:**

The National Cotton Council's Boll Weevil Action Committee (involving grower leaders from across the country) held its annual meeting in Memphis, TN, on September 21, 2004. Eradication program managers reported on progress being made in their respective zones. Unusually frequent rainfall across the middle of the country this summer hampered regular trapping activities, along with the associated treatments. A few areas struggled in their attempts to further reduce weevil numbers, but most still made good progress. And despite losses caused by recent hurricanes in the Southeast, yields are expected to be good across most of the Cotton Belt.

At its Memphis meeting, the Action Committee also developed recommendations for allocating the cost-share funds that may be appropriated for FY2005. Grower leaders endorsed setting aside a small portion of those funds to assist the joint Boll Weevil/Pink Bollworm Eradication Program along the U.S./Mexico border, assuming that such use is acceptable with PPQ. This action by the Committee indicates their understanding of the inseparable link between efforts to eradicate both the boll weevil and the pink bollworm along the border. Growers around El Paso, TX, Las Cruces, NM, and northern Mexico all have made it clear that they intend to eliminate *both* cotton pests simultaneously. If program funding to fight one pest is lacking, efforts to control the other pest will be negatively impacted. Cooperators in Mexico have already begun eradication activities, aimed at both pests, in the northern portion of their country, and it is going well.

Finally, the sub-committee for Post-Eradication Transition met and established a Beltwide Technical

Advisory Committee, and four working groups to develop procedures for post-eradication activities. PDMP staff is closely involved in these groups.

**Source: Bill Grefenstette**